

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) In a distributed system including a plurality of redundant components, a method for performance by a first redundant component, comprising:

~~transmitting multicasting~~ age information particular to the first redundant component to all other components in the plurality of redundant components, the age information relating to one or more criteria according to which a currently-active leader component is to be determined;

receiving age information from each other component in the plurality of redundant components particular to each component and relating to the one or more criteria according to which the currently-active leader component is to be determined; and[[,]]

determining whether the first redundant component is the currently-active leader component by comparing the age information particular to the first redundant component with the age information received from each of the redundant components,

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wherein[[,]] if the first redundant component determines that it is not the currently-active leader component, the first component knows one of the components in the plurality of redundant components is the currently-active leader component.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising periodically repeating the method.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the age information includes a duration of time on-line transmitting the information particular to the first component comprises transmitting age information particular to the first component, and the receiving the information particular to the other components comprises receiving age information particular to the other components.

11-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the determining whether the first component is the currently-active leader component comprises determining whether the first component is an oldest component.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) In a computer system including a plurality of redundant components, a method for electing a currently-active leader component, comprising:

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~~multicasting~~ ~~exchanging~~ currently-active leader election criteria information among all the plurality of redundant components; and

at each component in the plurality of redundant components:

a) determining whether the component is the currently-active leader component, based on a currently-active leader election criteria information received from all the other components in the plurality of redundant components, wherein the currently-active leader election criteria information includes age information; and

b) repeating the determining whenever the component detects an occurrence of a failure that has a potential to affect the currently-active leader component.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising: periodically repeating the method.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the age information includes a duration of time on-line ~~exchanging currently-active leader election criteria information comprises exchanging age information.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the determining whether the component is the currently-active leader component comprises: determining whether the component is an oldest component; and

if the component determines that it is the oldest component, concluding that the component is the currently-active leader component.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the multicasting ~~exchanging~~ age information includes multicasting ~~exchanging~~ information regarding how long each component in the plurality of redundant components has been online.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant instances of a daemon.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the daemon is a system management daemon.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the daemon is a power line monitoring daemon.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant executing processes.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant class objects.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant devices in an automation system.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are redundant nodes in a network.